

PRESS RELEASE

December 15, 2020

**BILSTER BERG certified according to the ISO environmental management system**

**For almost 10 years, BILSTER BERG has been working according to the environmental management system (EMS) DIN EN ISO 14001:2015 - as the only circuit in German-speaking countries. An independent external auditor has now once again confirmed that the circuit in the area of Teutoburg Forest, specialized in automotive testing and presentations, complies with all specifications requested for the protection and support of the environment.**

Michael Retzmann is Environmental Protection Officer at BILSTER BERG and carries a lot of responsibility. At first that sounds like a rather unusual job at a test and presentation track. At second glance, more like a very interesting and special function. Together with a team of nine colleagues as well as Noise Protection Officer Frank Igelbrinck, he makes sure that all legal and technical requirements, necessary for the certification according to ISO 14001:2015, are complied with. Among other things, this includes undercutting the strict noise emissions on a permanent and voluntary basis and caring for the countless animal and plant species that have found a home at BILSTER BERG.

There are many measures and projects for environmental protection at BILSTER BERG. For example, in 2020 the technical team restored an old fire-fighting water pumping station originating from the days of the NATO Rhine Army to the latest technical specifications. This new facility now ensures that there is always a sufficient amount of fire-fighting water available should a fire break out on-site. At the same time, the heating system now runs entirely on electricity, so there is no need to use a refrigerant.\* Materials such as wooden paneling that are no longer used after an event are converted by the technical team into functional, modern furniture that is used all over the facility.

Moreover, the proportion of e-mobility-related events increased at BILSTER BERG in 2020, although due to the pandemic, there were fewer driving events than in 2019. Also in 2020, the all-electric Volkswagen ID.R racing car beat the track record as part of a test day. However, drive technologies such as electric and hydrogen power require a lot of energy. To further compensate for the increasing energy demand in the future, BILSTER BERG is planning to install its own photovoltaic systems as part of the EMS. Thus in the medium term, the company will be able to produce 100% renewable energy. The construction of the photovoltaic system was supposed to start in 2020 but was postponed to 2021 due to the pandemic. BILSTER BERG currently obtains most of its electricity from external wind power and

receives an additional 100 % of renewable energy from the supplier in case that wind power alone is not sufficient.

Hans-Jürgen von Glasenapp, Managing Director of BILSTER BERG, explains why he opted for the environmental protection management system from the very beginning: "For us, it has always been very important to protect and support nature as we found it initially at BILSTER BERG. Every economic activity has an impact on the environment. The EMS helps us to keep this impact as low as possible or to compensate for it. Our customers are also aware of our commitment and back us by complying with and supporting the regulations established to protect the environment. I am convinced that, in the long term, to run a successful company you have to be in harmony with nature.

About 300,000 companies and organisations from all sectors work according to ISO 14001 worldwide. In Germany, there are about 8,000 organisations that have implemented an environmental management system according to ISO 14001. Among these, BILSTER BERG is the only test and presentation track.

\* Electric heaters do not emit any additional CO<sub>2</sub>, in contrast to heaters using a refrigerant.

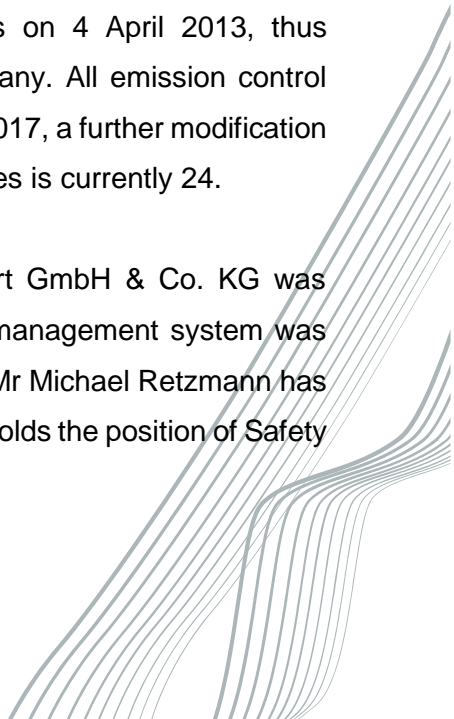
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## **Background:**

### **Brief description of the environmental management system**

Bilster Berg Drive Resort GmbH & Co. KG commenced track operations on 4 April 2013, thus successfully completing the path from planning company to operating company. All emission control permits have been obtained. In 2014, an amendment permit was obtained. In 2017, a further modification permit was applied for, which is still being processed. The number of employees is currently 24.

The environmental management system (EMS) of Bilster Berg Drive Resort GmbH & Co. KG was established in 2010 with the help of external expert support. In 2014, the management system was further developed to meet new requirements of track operations. Since 2016, Mr Michael Retzmann has been fulfilling the role of Environmental Management Officer (EMO), who also holds the position of Safety and Environment Officer (SEO).



The descriptions of the environmentally relevant procedures and activities as well as the description of the management tools and precautions to fulfil the requirements of the standards are described in the Environmental and Safety Manual.

In 2016, the environmental management system was adapted to the requirements of DIN EN ISO 14001:2015 with external expert support. The management adopted the environmental policy. It was brought to the attention of all employees.

The environmental goals have been formulated in writing and are supported by the management. The environmental programme exists in the form of a written compilation in which goals, measures, responsibilities and implementation periods are set out.

The EMO is responsible for monitoring the achievement of the goals set. In order to maintain the environmental management system and achieve continuous improvement of environmental performance, an internal audit procedure was installed. The internal audit was carried out with external, qualified support and the results were summarised in a report.

The compliance audit was carried out by an external auditor as part of the management system audit.

*(Source: AGIMUS Umwelt Sicherheit Qualität, Mr. Dipl.-Ing. Matthias Precht, Environmental Auditor)*

## **About BILSTER BERG**

Built on an ammunition depot of the NATO Rhine Army in Bad Driburg, approximately 200 km East of Cologne, BILSTER BERG opened on June 1, 2013. After a planning period of 7 years, this was the first time in 80 years that a new track started operating in Germany. Formula 1 architect Hermann Tilke and German rally legend Walter Röhrl were significantly involved in the planning and construction. However, BILSTER BERG was not primarily designed for use as a racetrack. Car manufacturers often rent BILSTER BERG as a test and presentation track. Due to the white label principle of the track, it is also often used for product presentations and by film crews.

Part of BILSTER BERG is also an Off-Road Course, a club house, the restaurant TURN ONE as well as a Dynamic Area offering possibilities for wet-track testing for example. The project cost 34 million euros and was fully privately financed by 180 shareholders.

All shareholders have the opportunity to drive on the track themselves on selected dates.

**Pictures:** <https://1drv.ms/u/s!AjW9Dfe3cfMPhBYF1DcntpPKsrli?e=LmSFjt>

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